

What is claimed:

1. A dental floss device comprising:

a handle; and

a dental floss holder;

said handle having a gripping portion and a head portion; said head portion having opposite engaging surfaces;

said dental floss holder having a base portion and a pair of spaced-apart jaws extending from the base portion to accommodate a length of dental floss therebetween, the spaced-apart jaws having at least one cavity for adding substances, the base portion having a mating portion for releasable engagement to said handle.

2. A dental floss device of claim 1, wherein the base portion defines a tongue having lateral engaging surfaces, each engaging surface having at least one detent and at least one recess, the detent and recess being laterally spaced apart and aligned with a complementary detent and recess on the opposite engaging surfaces of the head portion of the handle.

3. A dental floss device of claim 1, wherein said handle is integrally connected to the base of the dental floss holder and extends therefrom.

4. A dental floss device of claim 1, wherein said handle comprises a head portion and an elongated portion;

the head portion having a releasable engagement means between the handle and the floss holder for retaining the dental floss holder securely in position on the head portion of the handle during movement of the dental floss device in use;

the head portion further having a portion for receiving said dental floss holder, said head portion having a transversely extending groove defined by a floor, lateral receiving walls, and terminal snap fit recessions, each of said receiving walls having at least one detent and at least one recess, the detent and recess being laterally spaced apart and aligned with a complementary detent and recess on the other receiving wall;

wherein, on assembly, the tongue of the dental floss holder engages the transversely extending groove and the lateral engaging surfaces contact the lateral receiving walls to define the releasable engagement means, and the snap fit projections of the spaced-apart jaws engage the terminal snap fit recessions of the head portion to constitute snap fitting means.

5. A dental floss device of claim 1, wherein said handle is made of a polypropylene material.

6. A dental floss device of claim 1, wherein said dental floss holder is made of a polypropylene material.

7. A dental floss device of claim 1, wherein said handle is made of a polyester material.

8. A dental floss device comprising:
a base portion; and
a pair of spaced-apart arms extending from the base portion to accommodate a length of dental floss therebetween,

each of said pair of spaced-apart arms having a surface, the surface of at least one of said arms comprising a cavity capable of containing a flavored substance, an active or a combination of a flavored substance and an active.

5 9. The dental floss device of claim 8, wherein said cavity is on a lateral surface of said arm, the cavity extending through the arm to form a through hole.

10 10. The dental floss device of claim 8, wherein said cavity contains a flavored substance.

11. The dental floss device of claim 8, wherein said cavity contains an active.

12. The dental floss device of claim 10, wherein said flavored substance is water soluble.

15 13. The dental floss device of claim 10, wherein said flavored substance is water insoluble.

14. The dental floss device of claim 11, wherein said actives are saliva soluble.

20 15. The dental floss device of claim 11, wherein said actives are insoluble.

16. The dental floss device of claim 9, wherein said through hole contain a tapered section that increases in diameter away from the surface of said cavity.

25 17. The dental floss device of claim 11, wherein said active is a chemotherapeutic agent.

18. The dental floss device of claim 8, wherein said length of dental floss is a multi-filament yarn.

5 19. The dental floss device of claim 8, wherein said length of dental floss is a psuedo-monofilament yarn.

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Rule
~~20~~ 21. A dental device comprising:
a handle; and
10 a dental article;
said handle having a gripping portion and a head portion; the head portion containing one side of a releasable engagement;
said dental article having a mating portion for releasable engagement with said handle and at least one cavity capable of releasably retaining a flavor substance,
15 an active or a combination of a flavor substance and an active.

~~21~~ 22. A dental device of claim 17, wherein said head portion having a portion for receiving said dental article, said head portion having a transversely extending groove defined by a floor, lateral receiving walls, and terminal snap fit recessions,
20 each of said receiving walls having at least one detent and at least one recess, the detent and recess being laterally spaced apart and aligned with a complementary detent and recess on the other receiving wall.

~~22~~ 23. A dental article having means for delivering a flavor and/or a chemotherapeutic
25 substance to an oral cavity in use, said article being formed from an injection molded plastic, said article having at least one cavity, said at least one cavity being filled with a heat meltable polymer which is solid at room temperature and capable

of melting when placed in the mouth and contacted with saliva, said heat meltable polymer containing said flavor and/or chemotherapeutic substance, whereby said flavor and/or chemotherapeutic substance is delivered to the oral cavity.